



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Tenaja - Roadside Fuel Reduction		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Tenaja Rd, near Murrieta, CA. Portion of Section 32 and 33, T7SR4W; Portion of Section 1, T8SR5W; Portion of Section 6, T8SR4W Portion of Section 36, T7SR5W; SBB&M.	COUNTY	Riverside
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Gregg Bratcher, Forester II, RRU CAL FIRE	PHONE	951-659-3335
ADDRESS	PO Box 2097, Idyllwild, CA 92549		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project goal is to mitigate the potential impact that a wildland fire would have on a strategic evacuation route. Tenaja Road is a strategic evacuation route used by citizens living in the Santa Rosa Plateau area, near Murrieta, Riverside County, CA. The project intent is to reduce existing heavy fuel loads on critical road portions to a safe level, providing safe ingress and egress, protect the community, citizens and facilities and provide defensible space along the proposed road portion in the event of wildfire. Fuel reduction is proposed along the Tenaja Community Service District road easement and some identified private ownerships, up to 85 feet from road center line to each side of the road, or from fence to fence whichever comes first. Treated area is estimated at ~30 acres. The onsite vegetation is represented by various understory chaparral intermingled with scattered and pockets of developed and disturbed woodlands. The project elevation varies between 2020-2200 feet with various aspects and slopes. Only dead, dying or diseased trees less than 12 inches DBH and those that will be dead within one year from a date of inspection determined by an RPF shall be removed. Existing snow breakages removal, tree pruning, cutting of understory shrubs and bushes shall be performed. Snags in all DBH classes shall be removed if deemed as hazard by an RPF. No commercial operations are planned. Under direct supervision, CALFIRE crews will cut/prune and drag by hand the downed material to an accessible road to be chipped.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4, 15304 -Minor alterations to land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project meets the requirements of a Class 4 Categorical Exemption "15304 Minor Alterations to Land" -"Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal healthy, mature and scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes". The project is small in size, will increase safety regarding ingress and egress, has minimal ground disturbance and will not result in significant effects on biological and archeological resources nor the environment. Field review by CALFIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CALFIRE, Riverside Unit, Mountain Resource Center, 25380 Franklin Dr. Idyllwild, CA 92549.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING




Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 12/17/15
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection